Southington August 27th 1829 Thursday Morning

My very dear Brother

I have to acknowledge the receipt of three letters from you during the present month, of the dates of June 1st – 11th & 30th. The first two arrived while I was absent, the latter came on Tuesday last & its contents caused a sensation of joy & happiness to thrill through our bosoms & a prayer to ascend that the bright hopes of our beloved brother might not be blasted. – It is somewhat difficult to realise that I have a 'half foreign neice' as you call the little stranger, yet as I know it must be so, a due share of the heart of "Aunt Licia" shall be reserved for her till she comes to take her place among her American cousins. – It is almost needless to say that I long to see her, (for your own feelings will assure you of it,) yet it may be gratifying to her parents to receive the expression of an affection which circumstances have awakened, & likewise the assurance of love for them, unimpaired & unabated

It was with the deepest regret that we heard of your decision to remain in Europe untill the next year, nothwithstanding we had in some measure anticipated such a result. I was not unmindful that the advanced season of the year would be somewhat unpropitious, yet I hoped that your desire to return to your country & friends would be so great that you would overcome all obstacles & that we should in winter be enabled to welcome you & yours, to our hearts & homes. Yet we can but submit to your arrangements presuming that they are for the best, & look forward to Spring as the probable, nay certain termination, (unless some fearful change takes place,) of our so distant separation. – I like the names you have chosen for your babe, although I am no advocate for two. – –

I have been uncommonly interested in the narration of your journey in Italy & have derived much new & valuable information from it. But however vivid description may be, it must fall far short of reality, consequently I can form but a faint estimate of the grandeur & magnitude of St. Peter's & of the other mighty works you have witnessed & described. – I traced your various windings upon the maps of the different countries through which you passed, & also your excursions in Rome upon the plan of the city which you so kindly sent me, & find by so doing that the places & the facts connected with them are much more firmly impressed upon my mind, than sometimes when I have not had access to an Atlas. – The knowledge you have received & the gratification derived from all your travels must be incalculable, & will furnish materials for reflection & conversation for your whole life

An excursion to Catskill which is less than a step comparatively affords me ~~very~~ great pleasure. It expands & elevates my feelings, & is a source whence memory draws many pleasant recollections. – – I love these seasons of relaxation from the cares & labours of home – yet I always return here with delight, for there is no other place like this none that is to me so much like home. – – But it is time to proceed to ar–

account of my late jaunt to C—. Sister Sarah recovered so far from her illness that we left New Haven Monday evening Aug. 3d. We had expected to go without any protector, but were so fortunate as to have the company of Mr Galpin as far as N. York He saw us safely on board the North America where among the six hundred & eighty passengers which left the city I found three acquaintances. One of them a Mr Donnelly from C— was very polite & rendered us all the necessary assistance. Among such a crowd you may well suppose there was a great variety of character & appearance; & we saw much to amuse us, especially as the fare is so low ($1. with meals extra) that every body, or as you said about the illumination at St Peters 'all the world' goes. — But the rush to the dinner table was the most amusing & they could not have manifested greater anxiety to escape from the uncontrolled power of steam than to get to the table. We sat down in despair; but at last the Captain gave us seats & we fared very well. — The weather was showery so that the scenery along the river did not appear as beautiful as in a clear sun, yet we enjoyed it much & before arriving at C the rain had entirely ceased so that it did not in fact incommode us at all. — The N. A. is indeed a splendid boat infinitely superior to any built before you left this country. She has three cabins one for the Ladies, a drawing room, & a dining room. The former is furnished with berths carpeted with Brussels, has damask drapery, & cushions. The second is carpeted the same, has a splendid piano; marble tables, damask cushions, sides ornamented with paintings & mirrors. Standing in the Ladies cabin you can look through the whole extent & it is indeed a noble view. — We were nine hours performing the passage. On landing we found Mr H— & Helen waiting for us, & received from them a cordial welcome which was repeated on arriving at the house. — We rested over Wednesday, but on Thursday, accompanied by Mr H— & Sophia, we started on an excursion to the Cohoes Falls We took the 4 o'clock A.M. boat, the Constellation, & reached Albany about 8— went directly to Troy which place we saw very superficially, then crossed over the river & took passage on the canal in a freight boat. We walked some part of the distance & were somewhat fatigued, but were much pleased with the scenery in the vicinity of the Falls & also the view from the canal of the country around & the villages of Lansingburg & Waterford. A boat from the west came along as soon as we were ready to return, which took us rapidly back to the junction, & here fortunately a stage came along in which we took seats & arrived in Albany at 5. P.M. We remained in A— untill the next morning 7 o'clock, then went on board the N. A. & were at Catskill at ten. The excursion was gratifying to us all, but it would have been better to have occupied more time by it. We remained in C— untill Wednesday of the next week & received every attention we could desire. We left at 8 o'clock P.M. in the new Philadelphia, & in nineteen hours were in New Haven. Nine on the river two in N.Y. 8 on the sound. We were again fortunate in having a protector so that we met with no difficulty whatever. Helen came home with us to spend a few weeks in N.H. She is now here

Saturday morning. 29th. I left this letter on Thursday with the intention of finishing it this noon, but far from the expectation of having any important information to communicate but an event has occurred in the mean time which was not so soon anticipated, viz the birth of another child. Sister M— was taken sick yesterday about the middle of the afternoon & at 11 o'clock P.M. gave birth to another daughter. She is very feeble this morning but no danger is apprehended, the child is very small & is also feeble but it is hoped that by good nursing it may reared. I wish it was possible to give as favorable an account, as you were able to, of your wife & babe, but hope that at the end of the week the prospect may brighten & we shall be relieved from all anxiety. — Cornelia is very much delighted with her little sister. & says I must "write to Uncle Edward whether Aunt Tesy's baby's eyes are blue?" meaning thereby whether they are black or blue. — She is a very good girl & I hope you will one day see her. —

After my return from C— I remained in N.H. a week & only came up here a week ago to day. — While I was making a call upon our Parson's wife who was at that time in N.H. I had the great gratification of being introduced to your fellow traveller Mr Chauncey, on my name being mentioned he said he travelled in Europe with a gentleman of the same name &c & presumed that I was a relative. He spo of seeing ~~his~~ Lady Theresa & said she was very interesting &c &c. I never met a stranger more gladly, as from the frequent mention of his name ~~in Journal~~ in your journal he seemed almost an acquaintance — — The two unnamed acquaintances whom I met on board the North America were Prof. Strong & his Lady. They were on their way to Clinton intending to remain there a few weeks & to be present at Comm. & They were both sociable & agreeable & rendered our passage far pleasanter than it would otherwise have been. Both enquired after you. I was introduced by Mrs S— to William Bristol of Utica, & also to Mrs Hart the daughter of Capt Lay. — —

On the last Sabbath Mr Ogden preached a sort of farewell discourse to our venerable meeting house in which he endeavoured to smooth over some of the severe observations he has formerly made upon it. It was quite inferior considering the occasion; which was one of uncommon interest, & would not again occur in his ministry. He spoke of his own feelings at his ordination & their association with that house, but never alluded in the slightest degree to him who for forty successive years occupied that desk. —— On Monday the old building was demolished in order to furnish materials for finishing off the basement room of the new one. The village looks better already, & will eventually be much improved. — We are to meet in the basement to morrow, although the room will not be completed until some weeks. The services of the Sab. are to be held there during the winter.

Mr Mitchell it seems has abandoned his Editorship of the Spectator & again turned his attention to Theology. He has been licensed as a preacher & has exhibited his eloquence in the pulpit at N.H. It is said that he has little animation. He leaves N.H. this fall. — — — After a lingering illness of several months, Mr D. Tapson died on Thursday & was buried yesterday — —

Brother Charles came to my door a few moments since & said are you going to write the baby's name, I said I do not know what it is. He replied, her name is Elizabeth. — — I mentioned to h— that I writing to you she said give my best love to both & tell them I rejoice at their happiness. — I had hoped that C— would write to you this month & intended to propose to him to do it last evening, to you but the circumstances of the family prevented, & this morning his head aches violently from want of rest & sleep, — a cold gloomy storm seems to be approaching & that, together with loss of sleep makes me extremely dull to day.

With an affectionate remembrance to sister Theresa & a kiss for Mademoiselle Mary Augusta Robinson — I am your Sister

Elizabeth

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Southington Ct
Aug 29. 1829

Recd Oct 2
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Mr Edward Robinson
Care of Messieurs B. [illegible]urtis & Porter
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Paris

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